



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Congo

Presidential Spokesman on Political, Security Problems

LD2601171194 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Text] The guest of Afrique Soir is Destin Arsene Tsati Bounbou, legal adviser and spokesman for Congolese President Pascal Lissouba. The crisis is still going on in Congo. Negotiations do not really seem to be on the agenda, and the Army has once again blocked access to the opposition stronghold, i.e., the districts in the south of Brazzaville. The Army blocked these roads on 17 January. Monique Mas asked Destin Arsene Tsati Bounbou to explain the strategy of the parties close to the presidency on this:

[Begin recording] [Bounbou] Baongo and Makelekele are today the stronghold of opposition militias. The issue is whether we should see to it that arms no longer reach these districts. It will then be up to the state to take some measures likely to minimize the risk, as it were, of arms being circulated in these districts.

[Mas] Minimize the risk through a blockade? Is a blockade likely to prevent the circulation of weapons?

[Bounbou] No, not a blockade, but checking people entering or leaving Baongo. For instance, an officer was recently kidnapped by opposition militias, and we have not heard anything about him to this day. But there are any number of similar cases in Brazzaville today. In such circumstances, a state cannot be idle.

[Mas] How do you explain the fact that the Congolese Army was not able to get the upper hand over the rebels, on one hand, and that it resorted to heavy weapons in districts where civilians live, on the other?

[Bounbou] You should know that our army was inherited from the single-party regime. Repression was its vocation. There is no longer a police force as such, nor a gendarmerie. In today's context, when the ninjas, as they are called—i.e., the opposition militias, attack soldiers that are sent to these districts—what do you think they can do, apart from using the defense means at their disposal? Not that this is a method likely to make us move toward peace, I don't think so, but the fact that—as far as the urban guerrilla war developing in Brazzaville is concerned—we do not yet have security forces and gendarmes prepared for this type of operation has to be taken into account. We are working on this.

[Mas] Isn't the Army also affected by the division of the country?

[Bounbou] On the whole, the Army is still committed to the desire later expressed by the National Conference to move toward democracy [sentence as heard]. But it goes without saying that it would be wrong to say that the Army is not also shaken by the ethnic and tribal-political upheavals the country is going through, since the Army

moves in the same environment as everyone else. It is nevertheless a fact that on the whole, the Army is still committed to the democratic principle.

[Mas] At the end of the day, one is under the impression that political life in Congo is being reduced to a mere power struggle between, on one hand, an opposition that you are saying has militias, an opposition in which a former president plays a certain role, and, on the other hand, an elected president who chose a general as prime minister and who himself recruits what some call militias.

[Bounbou] I think that you are misinformed. And if it is not the duty of a president and a prime minister, of a government, to set up forces able to see to the safety of the citizens, and to restructure and recruit them, I would like to know what a government can do. No. The issue is whether our people are aware of the situation, the rift in our national fabric. [end recording]

Presidential Group Opposed to Party-Based Government

AB2601134594 Paris AFP in French 0828 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Brazzaville, 26 Jan (AFP)—Christophe Moukoueke, leader of the Presidential Group, an alliance of parties close to President Pascal Lissouba, today ruled out the group's participation in a national union government made up of "party representatives." However, his movement "is prepared to examine the possibility of forming a national union government with members selected on a regional basis," Mr. Moukoueke told AFP, stressing that this should be "done strictly in accordance with the Constitution." "If it is established that the formation of a national union government is the only solution to the current crisis and that Congolese killed each other in their search for this government simply because everyone would like to have a share of the cake, then we accept to examine the issue," he added.

On the other hand, Mr. Moukoueke said he "is totally opposed to a government consisting of political parties because people would seek to defend their party views." Prior to the eventual establishment of a national union government on a regional basis "a working document and a consensus program must first be devised," Mr. Moukoueke stated adding "I wonder why there is so much talk about this union government; it may not necessarily bring an end to the crisis."

President Lissouba had announced on 31 December 1993 that he was prepared to set up a national union government. The opposition had expressed support for the formation of this government, provided it was formed after the final verdict of the arbitration college, which is expected to rule before 5 February on the 58 petitions for the annulment of the 1993 early legislative elections. The legislative elections constitute one of the factors leading to the bloody political clashes that have ravaged the southern districts of Brazzaville for several months now.

Equatorial Guinea

Spain Suspends Aid 'Effective Immediately'

AB2701090594 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Relations between Madrid and Malabo are once more in turmoil. Spain has decided to suspend all forms of aid to Equatorial Guinea effective immediately. Antonio Sibacha's exiled opposition Union for Democracy and Social Development is happy about this measure suspending aid to Malabo and urges donors, the United States, and the European countries to take a cue from Madrid as long as Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo's regime refuses to respect human rights and to democratize the country.

Prices Raised in Malabo, Bata Despite Freeze on Goods

AB2601151794 Paris AFP in French 1025 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Libreville, 26 Jan (AFP)—The prices of essential commodities have increased these past days in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, and Bata, the second largest city of the country, despite the freeze placed on goods by the government, Equatorial Guinean radio monitored in Libreville said today.

Some traders even hoarded some goods such as soap, cooking oil, rice, and milk in order to cause a shortage and to increase prices on the markets, the radio said, but did not give figures as examples of the price increase.

Equatorial Guinea, the last country to join the franc zone in 1985, was until now free from all price increases brought about in the zone by the announcement of the devaluation of the CFA franc by 50 percent.

"The situation is unbearable in Malabo where traders have increased the prices of all their goods. People are now waiting in lines to buy a kilo of rice whose price has doubled," a Malabo inhabitant commented over the phone from Libreville.

This situation "is all the more serious because the devaluation occurs at a time when the purchasing power of the Equatorial Guineans is very low and the government has not yet even planned to increase salaries," he added.

The average salaries in Equatorial Guinea range from about CFA 25,000 to CFA 30,000.

Gabon

Government Lifts Ban on Opposition Traveling Abroad

AB2701090094 Libreville RTG Chaine Nationale Radio Network in French 0800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The cabinet met in Libreville yesterday. Important decisions were made including the need to preserve

the purchasing power of the Gabonese people following price hikes after the devaluation of the CFA franc. The head of state, President El Hadj Omar Bongo, called on cabinet to take tough measures to implement the freeze on essential commodity prices, and called on the Ministry of Commerce to remain vigilant on the issue since prices change from one area of the city to the other.

The other important measure taken was the lifting of the ban on opposition leaders leaving Gabonese territory.

Opposition Paper Changes Terms of Reference to Leader

AB2701115094 Paris AFP in French 0922 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Libreville, 27 Jan (AFP)—Today's issue of the RUCHERONS, mouthpiece of the National Lumberjacks Rally [RNG], Gabon's leading opposition party, did not refer to the party's leader, Father Paul Mba Abessole, as "president of the Republic." Father Abessole, who placed second in the 5 December presidential elections at which Mr. Bongo was reelected in the first round, had declared himself winner of the poll. He then formed a "High Council of the Republic" comprising the majority of the opposition candidates at the poll and a shadow "government" headed by a "prime minister," Pierre-Andre Kombilla-Koumba, first secretary of the RNG.

In its latest issue, the biweekly dropped these terms and reverted to the use of the former titles of "chairman" and "first secretary of the RNG." Already, on 22 January, after the Constitutional Court turned down the opposition's petition for a cancellation of the election results and following the swearing in of the head of state for another five-year term of office, the opposition decided to drop the terms "government" and "Republic" and to replace them with "cabinet" and "resistance," respectively.

Meeting under the banner of the Convention of Forces of Change, the opposition had urged the people "to gear up for democratic resistance." According to a source close to the "cabinet," who declined to give further details, the opposition "is considering a medium-term strategy" at the moment.

Rwanda

Rebel Radio Reports 'Violent' Demonstrations 26 Jan

EA2701113594 (Clandestine) Radio Muhabura in English to Rwanda 1900 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Today morning, the notorious youthwingers of MRND-CDR [Republican National Movement for Democracy and Development, and Coalition for the Defense of the Republic] numbering 50 and 100, backed by the gendarmes, staged violent demonstrations blocking the road from Kacyiru [Kigali outskirts] to the

headquarters of UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda] and committed acts of terror against both motorists and pedestrians.

It all started at around 0930 AM when armed youth-wingers of MRND- CDR converged at 100 meters from CND [National Development Council] building where RPF [Rwanda Patriotic Front] officials reside, and erected barricades in the roads. The notorious supporters of MRND-CDR began to pull people out of cars, confiscated things, smashed windscreens, and forced the owners of vehicles to walk on foot. According to an eyewitness, one person was violently pulled out of the car and slashed with a panga [machete].

The attackers accused the victims of being tall, and therefore a Tutsi, according to them. All these acts of terror took place in the presence of security forces, the local paramilitary gendarmes. The gendarmes seemed concerned with the security of the perpetrators of violence instead of administering law and order. The only vehicles allowed to pass were those of RTLM [expansion unknown], a radio station used by MRND-CDR, and that of Mr. [name indistinct] the secretary general of MRND-CDR party, which passed in the area several times. At around 1100 AM, the MRND-CDR gang stopped an RPF vehicle which was taking an RPA [Rwandan Patriotic Army] officer to the headquarters of UNAMIR to meet Brigadier General Romeo Dallaire [UNAMIR commander]. In order to pass, the RPA soldiers escorting the officer had to shoot in the air to disperse those manning the illegal roadblock. When the RPF vehicle returned from the headquarters of UNAMIR, it was again stopped by the MRND-CDR youth. When the RPA soldiers tried to pass they were shot at by the gendarmes who had led an ambush nearby. The RPA returned fire and they drove home. The gendarmes continued shooting and bullets hit the CND building in which the RPF officials reside.

Contrary to reports by Radio Kigali nobody was injured by the bullets during the exchange of fire. The only casualty reported was the person cut with a panga by the MRND-CDR youthwingers. According to UNAMIR regulations, demonstrations are supposed to take place 1.5 km away from the RPF residence. But the MRND-CDR activists have been staging their demonstration close to the RPF residence in order to provoke RPF soldiers guarding the place. Today's illegal roadblock was erected only 100 meters from the main entrance to the CND building.

Meanwhile, reports from Kigali say that the presidential guards and the gendarmes have started vacating their families from the area. The presidential guards are said to be spreading rumors that RPF soldiers are planning to do something tonight, which is something the presidential guards did not explain. Other members of presidential guards in civilian clothes are reported to have spent the day making reconnaissance around the RPF residence at CND.

Following President Habyarimana's move to block the setting up of the broad-based transitional institutions, there have been increasing acts of provocation by MRND-CDR activists and these are now being joined by the government forces, the gendarmes, and presidential guards.

Four Protestors Injured

AB2601213494 Paris AFP in English 2100 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Text] Kigali, Jan 26 (AFP)—Former rebel guerrillas shot and wounded four demonstrators in Rwanda's capital Kigali on Wednesday [26 January] during a protest against the alleged killings of two civilians by the guerrillas, witnesses said.

The four protesters were wounded when about 15 fighters of the former rebel movement, the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), fired into a crowd of protesters near their barracks, the witnesses said.

Rwandan authorities said they were investigating accusations that RPF fighters, many of whom are to join the army under peace accords signed with the government in August, had killed two people on Sunday night. Local residents said they wounded two others on Tuesday night.

After nearly three years of civil war, the RPF agreed in August to join a transitional coalition government which has still to be sworn in. Six hundred of its former fighters, mainly from the minority Tutsi tribe, have been billeted in the capital to protect former RPF leaders who are to assume government posts.

But the already strained relations between the Tutsis, Rwanda's feudal rulers, and the majority Hutus have soured further since the RPF fighters arrived last month, political analysts said.

OAU Leader Seeks Agreement on Troop Deployment

EA2601205594 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The OAU secretary general, who arrived yesterday, is trying to secure an agreement on the deployment of African troops. Mr. Salim has four days to negotiate with political forces on the dispatching of about 200 OAU soldiers.

The deployment of the pan-African military mission was requested by the Burundi Government after the failure of the military coup attempt last October. The first elements of the OAU mission arrived last month but the force charged with the protection of the government and the reestablishing of trust has yet to be set up. Violent demonstrations were organized recently in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, against the deployment of foreign troops.

Zaire

Alliance Withdraws Candidates; Monsengwo To Head Parliament

AB2601152594 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1230 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] There is a happy ending to the political crisis between the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition and Allied [USORAL] last night at the People's Palace. The Allied Forces in the name of the best interest of the nation, simply withdrew the candidates to the presidency of the parliament to make way for the old bureau led by the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition.

[Unidentified reporter] At 2200 at the People's Palace, the moment was marked by the end of despair and emotion sustained by the USORAL for 48 hours following a disagreement over the members of this political group that should be members of the bureau. After a very tense moment exacerbated by strongly termed statements and after a four-hour interruption that enabled the two sides to organize a vote to come to an agreement, Mr. (Joseph Singawuju) took the floor to withdraw the candidates of the Allied Forces—(Ninda Kabika) and Dr. (Bwasa)—deciding that there should not be a win-or-lose attitude. An immense joy erupted in the conference room. People embraced one another. There was applause to mark the end of the conflict that almost led the deliberations into an impasse.

(Ange Luni Bembe), (Kaben Bingo), Nguyi Nduba, and Vangu Mambwene will from now on—and until the next legislative elections—be the close aides of Monsignor Monsengwo.

On the other hand, the former bureau led by the USORAL, including Joseph Ileo, Christophe Lutumbula, (Kinkela Vinkanci) and Valentin Mubaka, will continue to hold office in the new legislative body. Called to take the floor, the leader of the bureau, Valentin Mubaka, could not find the words to express his joy and expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for showing the necessary political will to put an end to the dual institutions.

The new bureau will be officially and solemnly presented today as of 1400 in the presence of the diplomatic corps invited at the People's Palace to attend the ceremony.

HCR Speaker Monsengwo Addresses Parliament

AB2601222594 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Address by Monsignor Laurent Monsengwo Pasinga, speaker of the High Council of the Republic, in Kinshasa on 26 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable HCR [High Council of the Republic] members, Your Excellencies the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions, distinguished guests: On this day of the opening of the extraordinary session of our interim legislative institution, I would like to

wholeheartedly bid you all welcome. Some of you have been actors and others witnesses of what men can achieve when their actions are based on the will to understand and on good faith. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and sisters of the interim parliament, Zaire our country did not drop like a bolt from the blue. This institutional order whose texts you are going to finalize did not fall from heaven. It is the outcome of a scrutiny of the constitutional legacy handed down from the past, from the colonial era until today, via the one-party system. At each stage of constitutional change, we receive as a legacy our past, with its strong and weak points, based on which we build the change to come.

The last stage of the constitutional change was that of the Sovereign National Conference [CNS], with an institutional order governed by the deed setting forth the constitutional provisions for the transition period. This legacy surely has its strong and weak points. Several unilateral steps were undertaken by individuals to improve it without success. Today, it is together that we want to do so on the basis of the political consultation we have all encouraged. Let us do so without emotion or partisan thinking, but rather in a sober and responsible manner.

In this regard, it is true that the deliberations of the political class do not automatically bind the institution. It is also true that the deliberations of the political class do not carry the signature of all the negotiators; hence, they cannot legally constitute a law binding the parties. But it should be noted that their work contains several points of agreement, which are the gains of the political class that must be taken into account because, in a parliamentary system, it would not be logical for the institution to fail to take account of the thinking of the political class which makes up the said institution. [passage omitted]

It will not only be dangerous, but also harmful for the honor and credibility of the Zairian political actor if the political class happens to renege these points of agreement whereas the public opinion (?grants it) the points of disagreement which persist. It therefore behooves the political class to demonstrate its maturity by remaining consistent and logical in the defense of its gains within the interim legislative institution. [passage omitted]

The main concern of the political class during the transition period is security, in order that no politician may be unfairly rendered unable to take part in elections. The importance politicians attach to positioning themselves in the interim institutions is understandable. [passage omitted] It is therefore important that at the level of the president of the Republic, head of state, whose function is to serve as the guarantor of national unity and at those of the legislative organ and the executive, this balanced representation be guaranteed during the transition period.

The executive has a great responsibility since it is charged with implementing the principles of fairness in

the key organs of government machinery. But since some organs cannot necessarily be subjected to certain aspects of equity, including the ideological representation aspects, such organs will be required to be neutral and apolitical. This is particularly the case of the security and law enforcement agencies, the public service, and the utilities. The Army, the security and law enforcement agencies, and the public service must be in the service of the Republic and the citizen, irrespective of their tribal or ethnic affiliation, or even their political thinking. The public service, including the department of territorial administration, must, in short, be in the service of the Republic and the citizen. [passage omitted]

Among the public service departments, one has particularly engaged the attention of the political class: the state-run media—i.e. the radio, the television, and the ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY. The CNS dealt at length with this question and the political class took it up again in its consultations. As [word indistinct] put it: Where the public opinion ceases to find free expression, peace is in jeopardy. One could confidently state: Tell me how the mass media is organized in your country and I will tell you the system that reigns there.

The state-run media have been monopolized by governments throughout the world without their necessarily being used to provide objective information but rather to serve propaganda purposes. This is why under systems of ideological pluralism, democratic countries have created mechanisms that guarantee all political leanings the right to get their message across to the public. One such mechanism is to entrust the running of these public services to a committee representing the principal ideological leanings and to stop the state or a particular political group from monopolizing their functioning. Since the transition is the prefiguration of the Third Republic—which we would all like to be democratic and pluralistic—it can only have state-run media that serve all the various political leanings. This is a prerequisite of the democratic principles that must guide us. The apolitical nature of the Army, security forces, and government services, as well as the free access of all political leanings to the state-run media and the right of all citizens to information, constitute one of the absolutely essential conditions for democratic, open, and, therefore, reliable elections.

With respect to politicians who have been appointed to head political institutions or territorial bodies, they must show neutrality in carrying out their duties since their political leanings must not violate the rights of those who belong to another political family. They must occupy their post without taking financial charge of their political parties. To paraphrase a French statesman, this is the price democracy demands.

Honorable HCR members, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen: It has become a common utterance to say that the economic and social conditions of our people are deplorable. However, the word deplorable does not really convey the dramatic situation of the country's

average citizen especially in the big urban centers. Low salaries and speculative skyrocketing prices exist while certain commercial activities flourish by shamelessly exploiting the misery of our people.

The political class deliberated on these questions and recommended some urgent solutions. Whatever the case, the consolidation of strength of all the active forces of the country is necessary for meeting the challenge of achieving the country's economic and social recovery. The holding of consultations among businessmen, trade unions, and public authorities is indispensable. These consultations must be placed under the sign of national solidarity. It is good to note that the awareness of the people themselves to contribute to work on one side, and on the other, in the provision of self-protection against excesses is an indispensable backup measure for adopting the measures recommended by the said consultations. It is only the combination of these factors which can marginalize murderous speculators, provided the state regains all its capabilities of public authority and exercises them without complacency against the recalcitrant ones who go to excess.

What is happening in fuel stations is quite more scandalizing. The way in which Chinese rice was being sold is uncontrollable and is likely to discourage all those people who, either in the country or abroad, try to relieve the misery of our people. The state must set up a minimum of efficient organization capable of sending out locally or externally produced essential commodities to the needy consumers without their passing through useless, expensive, or uncontrolled intermediaries. The success of recovery is at this price. It is not a regime of a police state that we want, but the regime of a state that, on behalf of the citizens and the society, plays the role of the guarantor of public order where every citizen can fully enjoy his right in justice and dignity.

The advocates of liberal economy will probably feel frustrated by this address. They should not worry. I am far away from the idea to condemn market economy and the Sovereign National Conference has opted for social market economy. The crisis in Zaire prevents the interplay of the normal rule of competition. For as long as production will not be reactivated to ensure abundance, the state must promote and, if need be, constraint the citizens to solidarity through appropriate machineries. The state will see to it that the economic space is not transformed into a jungle to the detriment of the poor as is the case presently.

We finally want to suggest that it must be a national moratorium between the National Association of Zairian Enterprises, all branches of the trade unions, including the press, and the government in order to sanitize and to ensure the political, economic, and social well being of the of the nation. During this moratorium period, the businessmen must endeavor to maintain their profit margin within a reasonable limit, while the trade unions limit their salary demands at a decent level, and the media, following the political leaders must try to

discipline themselves to correctly inform and keep to positive criticisms and refrain from personal attacks which destroy the honor and dignity of citizens so as to promote the democratic virtues of dialogue and tolerance.

As for the government, it must be committed to grant fiscal facilities so as to stimulate production and encourage this by actions which will strengthen its credibility and authority through the creation of conditions of security for people and their property.

Dear brothers and sisters, transitional parliamentarians, the fate of our people is in our hands. Let us try to work together, constantly bearing in mind our priority duty to eradicate the misery into which the people of our country have been plunged. In this regard, let us forget what divides and promote what unites us. In this way, we will be doing a great service to our country and history, as well to future generations who will be grateful to us.

My brothers, sisters, republican councilors, ambassadors, and heads of diplomatic missions, ladies, and gentlemen, I cannot end this address without turning to my colleagues of the bureau and congratulate them on the confidence that the assembly has placed in them by appointing them bureau members.

They are all lay persons and are called upon to assume the temporal duties, as God recommends, for the happiness of the people. They will therefore understand that once the bureau is inaugurated, I am leaving the responsibility of managing current affairs of the HCR/Transitional Parliament, in order to concentrate on finding solutions to problems that may arise in the event of any major crisis under the same conditions as those accepted by the Sovereign National Conference on 5 December 1992. It is on these words, honorable HCR members, dear ambassadors, and heads of diplomatic mission, ladies, and gentlemen, and demanding the blessing of the Eternal for our country that I declare the end of the solemn opening session of the HCR, our transitional parliament. I thank you.

Premier Receives INTELSAT Official; Arrears Discussed

AB2701093094 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Faustin Birindwa received Amadou Toure, International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium [INTELSAT] regional director for Africa, in his office today. Their discussions centered on

the payment of Zaire's arrears to the organization. Muako Alibaba has the details:

[Alibaba] INTELSAT might cut its telephone and television services to Zaire at the national and international levels, for failure to honor its financial obligations. This situation was at the center of the discussions that the prime minister held with Mr. Toure at his office today in the presence of (Philippe Gelezi Tutua Kabanzili), minister of posts, telephones, and telecommunications. After the discussions, the INTELSAT regional director for Africa had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Toure] In my capacity as INTELSAT regional director for Africa, I paid a courtesy call on the prime minister who agreed to receive me. In general, we discussed African issues such as the important project known as the regional African satellite system and other problems concerning Zaire in particular. Among these problems are the present delayed payment of Zaire's contributions, and in view of the recent decisions made by INTELSAT board of governors, Zaire's national and international telephone and television traffic might be cut. This is why I deemed it advisable to come here to discuss the situation with the authorities to avoid such a cut, as it would adversely affect the African group within the board of governors.

I first discussed the problem with the minister of telecommunications and with the National Telecommunications Corporation. We succeeded in drawing up a number of measures which I believe, once implemented, could help solve the problem soon. We also discussed other problems that may crop up in future and ways of preventing Zaire from facing a similar situation. We hope that our cooperation will be fruitful.

[Unidentified correspondent] What was the prime minister's reaction in the face of all these problems?

[Toure] First, I was very satisfied with the reactions of the minister of telecommunications and the prime minister who received me immediately after my arrival in view of the urgent situation. I was very satisfied with the measures taken before my arrival, because this problem is a longstanding one. The Ministry of Telecommunications has already started taking a number of steps, and I was very satisfied to note them here myself. We received some promises and support from the prime minister to help solve the problem. We believe that before the deadline—we only have one month left, that is 27 February—the problem will be solved, taking into account the prime minister's reactions.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Government Chief Negotiator 'Optimistic' About Talks

MB2601213294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Excerpts] A last-minute effort to reach an agreement with the Freedom Alliance over the transitional constitution will be made tomorrow. An attempt to arrange such a meeting is being made. The government's chief negotiator, Roelf Meyer, told the media tonight that the constitutional differences between the three parties involved are not unbridgeable. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording, Meyer in progress] ...the differences are in fact very small, and I really hope that tomorrow—if the talks do take place—we will eliminate those things that are still in the way. It is all about formulation of the relevant items which deal with powers and capabilities of provinces in the new dispensation. As far as the government is concerned, we have made a proposal on how the problem can be solved, but if we get the ANC's cooperation and Freedom Alliance's on this, then there should be no problem.

[Reporter] Mr. Meyer was more optimistic about the negotiations with the Afrikaner National Front on a homeland for whites and about talks with the kwaZulu kingship over the role of the Zulu king in a future dispensation.

[Meyer] The talks during the last week with the National Front and the Zulu king's representatives went off well. There are positive signs, and I think that on both of those aspects we could come to an agreement as early as tomorrow. The most important assurance from our side to the supporters of a homeland—and that is what has surfaced in our previous discussions—is that the homeland idea has to be accepted as a possible solution for self-determination for the Afrikaner. And we are now trying to find a formula on how that fact can be assured and be continued even after the election. [end recording]

Buthelezi 'Not Optimistic' About Talks With Government

MB2701080294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0044 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Ulundi Jan 26 SAPA—Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] President Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he is not optimistic Thursday's talks between the government, the African National Congress [ANC] and the Freedom Alliance will lead to an inclusive constitutional settlement. In a statement issued on Wednesday Mr Buthelezi said: "I am not overly optimistic after the experience of the kind of games that the ANC, in tandem with the government and the National Party, has been playing with us in these so-called negotiations."

However, "We must of course leave no stone unturned in our search for a constitutional settlement and we will have to make this last attempt on Thursday"

Regarding the IFP's participation in the general election, Mr Buthelezi asked: "Why should the ANC want us in

the election if we really are their true opposition and if we are the only party which could stop them taking control of the legislature in this region?"

"We will have to face the facts now that we have to go to the conference to tell delegates about the failure of negotiations and face the conference with the need to finally put to bed the issue of whether or not we enter elections," he said.

"I say this constitution is fatally flawed and that there is no future for kwazulu and for self-determination for the people of this region or any other region in it."

Mr Buthelezi warned of civil war and said: "We will never have peace, stability and prosperity if we repeat the failure of Russia and East Europe to recognise that centrist constitutions imposed over a plural society, in which there are competing demands for self-determination, can only give rise to disruption, violence and finally civil war".

The IFP is seeking a federal constitution with a division of power between the central and state governments. The IFP has also opposed the proposed deadlock-breaking mechanism which "inter alia enable a constitutional assembly to completely rewrite the constitution with only a 50 percent plus on majority".

The IFP is also demanding two votes per person in the election.

IFP Awaiting Outcome of 'Last-Ditch' Talks 27 Jan

MB2601202794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1944 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Ulundi Jan 26 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party's [IFP] Central Committee says it is not able prepare recommendations on the party's participation in the general election for the upcoming IFP national conference because constitutional negotiations have not been completed.

Trilateral negotiations between the government, the African National Congress and the Freedom Alliance, of which the IFP is a member, are to resume on Thursday in a last-ditch effort to ensure the alliance's participation in the election.

The IFP Central Committee in a statement on Wednesday night also expressed concern that the lack of progress in separate negotiations on the position of the Zulu king and kingdom would "impair the ability of (the) conference to consider what course of action to adopt and to come to a final decision as to the IFP's responsibility to South Africa in regard to the forthcoming elections".

Clinton's State of Union Speech, Goals Outlined

MB2701100694 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 27 Jan 93 p 18

[Article by Peter Fabricius in Washington]

[Text] President Clinton hates distractions. Examine his speeches, statements and interviews and you will find several annoyed references to this or that "distraction" from his main policy goals.

Loathing distraction is the meritorious hallmark of someone with a mission. But it may also be the sign of someone who is too single-minded, too determined to control the agenda—and inadequately prepared for the unexpected. It is the unexpected that Clinton has to watch for in 1994.

Clinton, the man with a mission was very much in evidence in his first State of the Union speech on Tuesday. He displayed the rather frenzied energy and drive of a Cecil John Rhodes. One could imagine him being dragged out of the White House in a few years' time muttering, "so much to do, so little done." He could invoke many solid achievements in his one year in office so far, including cutting the gigantic American deficit by \$500 billion and helping set the economy back on the road to recovery, passing the North American Free Trade Agreement, securing a GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] agreement, getting Ukraine, Belarus and Khazakstan to agree to scrap their nuclear weapons, pushing through legislation to control guns, allowing students to work off loans, offering leave to workers who have to tend sick family—the list goes on.

Working with a meagre 43 percent of the vote, he got over 86 percent of his legislation through Congress, a strike rate beaten since World War 2 only by Johnson and Eisenhower. After a year of incredible ups and downs when his public approval rating fell to 37 percent at one point, he is again riding high at around 60 percent—his highest rate since taking office—and 17 percentage points above his vote in the elections. Polls show that the economy—the big issue of his election campaign—is now receding as a concern of Americans, largely because it is improving.

The economy has been replaced as a public concern by crime, welfare reform and health care, in that order. In his state of the union speech Clinton threw himself into those issues with enthusiasm. Confounding many cautious voices in his own party, he announced he would tackle two difficult, major reform tasks at the same time—health care and welfare—as well as several crime measures.

Health care reform will by itself be an enormous undertaking, involving a revamp of the health industry. The Republican Party is opposed to this, so a major legislative battle will ensue. Add to that welfare reform—a controversial plan to terminate welfare payments to anyone who has been on it for two years—and several other initiatives, and you have the making of another bumpy year.

And yet achieving his ambitious agenda may not be Clinton's biggest worry. In 1993 he showed himself remarkably resilient when focused and committed. The problem may instead be those "distractions." Chief

among them could be "Whitewatergate," the web of vague accusations about improper dealings between Arkansas Governor Clinton and a failed savings and loan company.

After resisting pressure for a special counsel to examine the allegations, Clinton gave in, saying that if he had not, the affair might have distracted from his policy goals. This had the desired effect. The press subsided. But the investigation could still be a ticking time bomb.

Other potential distractions are in foreign affairs and defence. Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti all intruded last year, threatening to distract Clinton from his domestic agenda. These volcanoes are not quite dormant yet and others still more explosive—such as Russia—may be lurking. There is an aspect of being president which Clinton seems to shun. That is simply being on watch, ready to deal with whatever comes up—even if it's not on the agenda.

IFP, PAC Agree To Work for Two-Ballot System

MB2701112194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1048
GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 27 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] and the Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] agreed to canvass white and black parties for two ballot papers in the April elections. PAC and IFP Presidents Clarence Makwetu and Mangosuthu Buthelezi met in Johannesburg on Thursday morning and discussed the ballot system and violence.

"The PAC and the IFP decided to contact the Democratic Party, Dikwankwetla Party and others in favour of the two-ballot system to develop joint strategies to ensure that the fraudulent undemocratic one-ballot system does not take place," PAC President Clarence Makwetu told a press conference afterwards.

PAC Political Secretary Jaki Seroke said later the Afrikaner Volksfront [Afrikaner National Front] and the Conservative Party might also be approached.

Mr Makwetu and Mr Buthelezi agreed violence could jeopardise the elections and suggested meetings between them and the African National Congress [ANC]. "Joint activities between the PAC, the IFP and the ANC is the route along which the solution should be found," Mr Makwetu said.

Mr Buthelezi said the PAC last year offered to mediate between the ANC and the IFP, but the ANC had rejected the offer.

Buthelezi Comments on Talks

MB2701132594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1135
GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 27 SAPA—Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he is not

optimistic about the outcome of protracted constitutional talks between the African National Congress [ANC], government and Freedom Alliance. Addressing a press conference after meeting Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] President Clarence Makwetu in Johannesburg on Thursday, Mr Buthelezi said the alliance was waiting for a written compromise by ANC Chairman Thabo Mbeki before talks resumed on Friday.

"But frankly, I am not optimistic about it. Nevertheless, since we are determined to do everything in our power to find a solution we feel we should do that and go the whole hog in trying to reach an agreement."

On changing the April elections from a single ballot paper for national and regional candidates to a two-ballot system, Mr Buthelezi said ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa had refused to discuss the issue. He said agreement on a two-ballot system would help in getting the IFP to participate in the election, but indicated outstanding constitutional issues such as stronger regional powers would also have to be settled.

The IFP leader said a delegation for Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini was discussing the ballot issue with the government. "The king said he would not encourage his amakhosi, the chiefs, and his people to participate in elections if the single-ballot system was imposed on his people."

ANC Reacts to NP 'Hysteria' Concerning Electoral List

MB2701065894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2213
GMT 26 Jan 94

[ANC Statement on NP Allegations of Communist manipulation issued on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[Text] The National Party's [NP] hysteria about the inclusion of SACP [South African Communist Party] members in the ANC [African National Congress] election list is reflective of undemocratic traditions which this party represents. It is instructive that this campaign issues from parties of the white establishment. The ANC remains convinced that this has nothing to do with the 34 SACP members in the ANC national list of 200 for the constituent assembly nor the deliberate security police type lie about the so-called "sleeping members".

It is quite clear that this is a pre-planned campaign timed to coincide with the release of the ANC national list to the public. The aim remains to divert people's attention from crucial issues facing the downtrodden people: violence and the dismal track record of the NP over the years. This is because the NP has no answers to offer.

The ANC list includes persons of integrity who fought against the apartheid system: believers Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, communists, democratic nationalists and patriots who believe in a non-racial democracy and a better life for all South Africans. It is a

truly South African list of democrats chosen in a transparent and democratic manner.

All the candidates will campaign under the ANC banner, pursue the ANC platform and policy in Parliament. For this democratic practice we owe the NP and its allies in the apartheid establishment no apology.

What the ANC would like the NP to tell the public, though, is how it is preparing its own lists- their silence in this matter is deafening. We are extremely concerned at this witch-hunt against illustrious fighters against apartheid. On the one hand it has brought to the fore some of the worst characteristics in the life of the NP:

Suppression from 1950 to the 80's had in its definition of all opponents of apartheid as communists. Its fascist approach to campaigns, that the more a "big lie" is told, the more people believe it. We are therefore bound to ask: where is the new National Party?

The ANC remains concerned that negative campaigns of this nature, have in the past been followed by assassinations and attempts on the lives of leaders of the ANC and its allies. We genuinely hope that the media will not find themselves used unwittingly for these machinations of the NP and its allies. We wish to remind them that it was first the Communist Party in the 50's, then the ANC in the 60's, religious leaders and students in the 70's and 80's and then the media, which suffered from the political intolerance of the National Party.

ANC's Jordan Promises 'American-Style' Campaign

MB2601202894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1934
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 26 SAPA—People's forums could be institutionalised under an African National Congress [ANC] government, ANC spokesman Dr. Pallo Jordan said on Wednesday. He was addressing the press in Johannesburg where he promised an "American-style" launch for the organisation's election manifesto on Saturday, the day before ANC President Nelson Mandela hits the western Transvaal election trail.

Dr. Jordan said people's forums could become a feature of an ANC government and not just the organisation's election drive. "Most times, folks in this country get talked at by politicians. It's unusual for politicians to be talked at by ordinary folks on the ground. As a form of participation democracy we think we have pioneered something which could be institutionalised in the future, both as a measure of encouraging interaction between government and popular people, and also as a form of accountability."

On Saturday's manifesto launch at Nasrec [convention center] near Johannesburg, Mr Jordan said the occasion would be "American-style" with the fanfare, but "unlike an American launch, it will provide food for thought".

Mr Mandela will travel to Rustenberg, Stilfontein, Potchefstroom and Ikageng on Sunday and Monday before visiting his old Victor Verster Prison near Cape Town from where he will go to a nearby stadium to light a flame of freedom.

The ANC leader, accompanied by other Rivonia trialists, will also revisit Robben Island on February 11 to mark the fourth anniversary of Mr Mandela's release from prison.

On Friday next week the ANC leader will resume the election trail in the Orange Free State where he will visit Sasolburg, Bothaville, Kroonstad, Odendaalsrus, Thabong and the national peacekeeping force base at De Brug near Bloemfontein.

Commission Critiques ANC Plan for Order at Elections

MB2601204794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The ANC's [African National Congress] plan to deploy 40,000 of its so-called peace keepers at polling stations has elicited sharp criticism. The chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Judge Kriegler, was reluctant to comment. He said it would be inopportune to do this as an official report on the issue could be tabled before the commission.

The ANC said at a conference in Midrand that peace keepers would man routes leading to polling booths and in so doing prevent intimidation. Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel says it boils down to a threat to intimidate voters. He said such a step was extremely provocative and a recipe for violence.

The National Party said the plan is strongly reminiscent of a similar action by the Nazi Party in Germany in the 1940's and the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

SADF Denies Deploying More Troops in East Rand

MB2601202994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1650 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 26 SAPA—The South African Defence Force [SADF] has denied reports that additional troops have been deployed in the East Rand townships of Thokoza, Katlehong and Vosloorus to replace the police's Internal Stability Division [ISD], reports SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news.

This follows a claim by Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] Regional Organiser Thabani Dlamini on Wednesday that more soldiers had been deployed in the violence-torn areas in spite of IFP objections. Mr Dlamini said soldiers had blocked the only access routes to hostels and people had been prevented from going to work.

SADF spokesman Maj Christo Visser confirmed that troops in Katlehong had blockaded some routes on Wednesday to better control the movement of weapons. This had been done after discussions with the IFP and the African National Congress [ANC], he said. The SADF had also agreed to build another road for hostel dwellers, he said, but was unsure about its progress.

Mr Dlamini claimed the ISD had proved an obstacle to the seizure of power by ANC self-defence units on the East Rand.

He claimed SADF troops openly sided with the ANC and that the decision by the Transitional Executive Council to replace the ISD with soldiers confirmed the IFP's suspicion that the council existed merely to rubber-stamp ANC demands.

In reaction, Maj Visser said the SADF was in the townships to help police stabilise the area. "The South African army distances itself from any political party and is there to serve the community as a whole. In our actions the SADF is apolitical, neutral and fair."

He said claims of assault and harassment were sometimes made to discredit the defence force.

More on Troops Guarding Refugees

MB2701120994 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Johannesburg Ngcobo]

[Text] The SA [South African] Defence Force [SADF], SA Police [SAP] Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] and ANC [African National Party] have agreed that SADF troops will guard refugees returning to their East Rand homes. The decision was taken at a meeting attended by the ANC, Inkatha and the SADF's 41 Battalion last Friday, said SADF Witwatersrand spokesman Maj. Christo Visser.

The battalion had agreed to provide security for people returning to homes vacated during violence in Katlehong and Thokoza. Visser said the SADF had made the undertaking because it wanted to help the SAP restore normality in the townships by ending violence. "The SADF has deployed other troops in Thokoza, Katlehong and Vosloorus because the ones that were stationed in these areas have been taken into the national peace-keeping force."

Visser said the army was in the townships to provide security and not to take part in the politics of the area. He said the troops had agreed to assist people returning to clean their homes before reoccupying them.

ANC East Rand subregional secretary-general Xeba Soyaya confirmed that a meeting between Inkatha and the SADF had taken place last Friday and said members of the army had agreed to guard the refugees when they cleaned their homes this weekend. He said that after the announcement of the peace plan being worked out

between President F.W. de Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela, the ANC would call a series of rallies to welcome troops "and introduce them to the people."

An Inkatha official in Thokoza, Abram Mzizi, said he attended the meeting but as a parent, not an Inkatha member. He confirmed that army members had agreed to provide security in the area. He said this exercise was to last two weeks, after which a meeting would be called to review progress. If the need still existed, the army would continue providing security.

However, the Inkatha East Rand region accused SADF members of harassing its members in Katlehong and Thokoza. Inkatha regional organiser Thabani Dlamini said 17 cases of assault and harassment had already been reported to the Thokoza police station. "SADF members blockaded the only access available to hostel residents in and out of Katlehong," said Dlamini. "This has contributed to hundreds of hostel dwellers, particularly shift workers, losing their jobs," he alleged.

Dlamini said Inkatha was astounded at the sudden deployment of SADF troops without East Rand residents being consulted. "The decision by the TEC [Transitional Executive Committee] to replace the internal stability unit with SADF troops despite our known objections confirms once again widely held suspicions that the TEC is an instrument set up to rubber-stamp ANC demands."

Visser said the SADF "distances itself from any political party and is there to serve the community as a whole." To stabilise the area and keep fighting factions apart, the support of the whole community was needed. Any person assaulted or harassed was free to report this to the police.

SAPA reports that Visser confirmed that troops in Katlehong had blocked some routes yesterday to control the movement of weapons better but this had been done after discussions with Inkatha and the ANC. The SADF had also agreed to build another road for hostel dwellers, he said, but was unsure about its progress.

Union Warns ANC To Heed Farmer's Demands

MB2601164394 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Transvaal Agricultural Union has warned the ANC [African National Congress] that farmers would become part of the problem and not the solution if their demands are not met. The president of the union, Mr. Dries Bruwer, said in a letter to the ANC's Mr. Thabo Mbeki that the union demanded that attention should be given to such matters as the establishment of a volkstaat [homeland]. He said it was a small price to pay for peace in South Africa.

Letter to ANC Highlighted

MB2701063894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2105 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 26 SAPA—A volkstaat [homeland] and self-determination were a small price to pay for peace in the country and if this demand was not granted farmers would not hesitate to resist, Transvaal Agricultural Union [TAU] President Dries Bruwer has said in a letter to African National Congress [ANC] National Chairman Thabo Mbeki.

In the letter, released to the press on Wednesday, he said: "The TAU stresses the fact that failure to accept these demands will result in farmers becoming part of South Africa's problem and not still part of the solution. If farmers are left no other choice they will not hesitate to resist with all means available." Mr Bruwer said it was in the interests of all that Mr Mbeki urgently attend to these facts to work out a peaceful solution.

Transvaal farmers had for years played an indispensable role in stabilising rural areas and it was an acknowledged fact the future existence of 60 percent of rural towns was dependent on the farming community, Mr Bruwer said. Farmers had been and still were committed to maintaining peaceful labour relations with the more than seven million black people who worked and lived on farms, he added.

The Afrikaner Volksfront [Afrikaner National Union]-affiliated TAU demanded that farmers' "reasonable demands" which included the recognition and establishment of a volkstaat with self-determination be accommodated.

Mr Bruwer said farmers and the ANC had come close to signing an agreement which would have provided for self-determination for Afrikaners in a volkstaat. The agreement, which also provided for blacks remaining in an Afrikaner volkstaat, had been scuttled as a result of the bogged-down trilateral Freedom Alliance/ANC/government talks.

Mr Bruwer said he enjoyed good relations with the ANC and liaised personally with Mr Mbeki.

German Government Offers Country Assistance

MB2701073594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The German Government has offered every possible assistance to establish full democracy and a sound economic system in the new South Africa. This was said by the German state secretary for economic cooperation and development, Mr. Wigard Hardtl, who has spent the past seven days in South Africa talking to political leaders over a broad spectrum.

In a statement released by the German Embassy in Pretoria, Mr. Hardtl said South Africa's well being depended on its cooperation with other states in

southern Africa. He said the German Government had proposed that European Union members and states of southern Africa should hold a conference in September to foster regional cooperation.

Mineworkers Union Recommits To Remaining 'Whites-Only'

MB2701072694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0035 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 26 SAPA—The Mineworkers Union [MWU] has recommitted itself to remaining a whites-only union, saying it believes white trade unionism is at the threshold of a huge revival. In a resolution passed at the end of the MWU's annual congress in Johannesburg on Wednesday, the union said it expected an increase in membership in reaction to affirmative action which would benefit blacks.

White miners would in future seek the protection of a white trade union as they would be unable to voice their aspirations through political channels. The congress regretted the break-down in talks between the Freedom Alliance, the government and the African National Congress, saying a golden opportunity for a permanent and peaceful political solution had been lost.

Plans for Afrikaner Republic Viewed

MB2601184294 Pretoria PATRIOT in Afrikaans 21 Jan 94 p 4

[From the "Commentary" column]

[Text] The final preparation was carried out on 18 January through the establishment of a transitional president and a transitional parliament with council committees ensuring that the Afrikaner/Boer nation can formally, and with the approval and in the presence of the Afrikaner nation, attend Conservative Party [CP] has never been inclined to negotiate with the actual or potential enemy of the nation over the nation's unnegotiable "own country" and "self-determination."

Despite this view, it had been important during the last three years to point out to the nation's enemy during "negotiations" what are in fact the CP's, and therefore the Afrikaner/Boer peoples', "unnegotiables."

The capitulating NP government has all along been secretly whispering to the leaders of the Afrikaner nation's enemy, saying the Afrikaners/Boers are just big cowards like the NP's leaders, and that there was no need to comply with the Afrikaner/Boer demands regarding unnegotiable land and self-determination.

For example, a prominent ANC [African National Congress] leader admitted to PATRIOT that the government's people "lied to them about the conservative Afrikaner's determination and ability" to assert themselves should their sovereign existence be threatened.

After the negotiations it became blatantly obvious that the enemy had no intention whatsoever of favorably looking—before or after 27 April—at any of the Afrikaner/Boer's self-determination ideals.

That is why CP leader Dr. Hartzenberg personally told Mr. Mandela what the Afrikaner people's unnegotiables were.

Independent Broadcasting Authority Slated for Mar

MB2601164094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The group chief executive of the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation], Mr. Wynand Harmse, says private broadcasters may have to contribute to the corporations's funding in future. Addressing a conference on radio broadcasting in Johannesburg, he said the imminent deregulation of the industry would mean a loss of income for the SABC, as many new broadcasters would enter the advertising market. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters, Mr. Stan Katz, told the conference that the Independent Broadcast Authority would probably be established towards the end of March. He said permanent licenses for new broadcasters would be granted in about six to eight months from now. Mr. Katz said he did not believe that private broadcasters were needed before the April election to ensure adequate voter education and coverage of political events.

Media Monitoring Project Begins Operation

MB2601164294 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The broadcast monitoring project has announced the expansion of its monitoring capacity in preparation for the run-up to the election. The media monitoring project, as it is now called, said in a statement that it had begun examining the print media, and that it was monitoring 12 daily newspapers and six weekly, or weekend papers. The project will monitor three news bulletins, and one current affairs program on 10 radio stations each day, and is currently monitoring all the news bulletins on three television news stations including Bop [Bophuthatswana] Television. A statement said the project would issue daily reports to the Independent Media Commission and interested parties.

Inflation Rate Lowest in 20 Years

MB2701122994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1100 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 27 SAPA—South Africa enjoyed the lowest inflation rate in 20 years during 1993, Central Statistical Services [CSC] in Pretoria reported on Thursday. The average inflation rate was 9.7 percent—

the lowest since 1973 when it was 9.6 percent. Last year's rate was 4.2 percent lower than 13.9 percent in 1992.

The average annual rates of change in the CPI [Consumer Price Index] for the higher, middle and lower income groups were 10.2 percent, 9.7 percent and 8.6 percent respectively. In 1992 these rates were 13.3 percent, 14.5 percent and 14.7 percent respectively.

The average food inflation rate of 6.8 percent for 1993 was 18.6 percent lower than the corresponding rate of 25.3 percent for 1992. This rate is the lowest since 1971 (3.9 percent).

The price index for housing showed a negative inflation rate of -0.1 percent for 1993. This rate has shown a decreasing tendency since 1989 and is the lowest since 1959 when the index in this format was started, CSC said.

December's inflation rate was 9.5 percent—0.3 percent higher than November's 9.2 percent. Contributing to this 0.3 per cent increase were the decrease in the price index for housing (-0.2 percent) and increases in the price indices for food (0.2 percent), transport (0.1 percent) and all other items (0.2 percent).

December's food inflation rate was 5.2 percent—1.3 percent higher than November's 3.9 percent. Against this, the annual increase in the price index for all items excluding food was 10.7 percent, "which indicates that the change in food prices, notwithstanding the increase, still has a retarding effect on the inflation rate," CSS said.

The monthly increase of 1.1 per cent in the food price index was due to increases in the price indices for meat (2.8 percent), fruit and nuts (5.5 percent), fish and other seafood (1.3 percent), coffee, tea and cocoa (0.8 percent) grain products (0.7 percent), fats and oils (0.4 percent) and sugar (0.3 percent).

"These increases were slightly counteracted by decreases in the price indices for vegetables (-3.5 percent) and milk, cheese and eggs (0.2 percent)," CSS said.

The monthly decrease in the housing index (-1.2 percent) was due to the decrease in interest rates on mortgage bonds.

The fuel price decrease of December 17 was not taken into account in the CPI for December. The direct effect of this would be reflected in the inflation rate for January.

In the urban areas, the highest inflation rate of 12.2 percent for December was recorded in the OFS [Orange Free State] goldfields, while the lowest rate of 8.3 percent occurred in the Vaal Triangle.

The food price index for Pietermaritzburg showed the lowest annual increase of 3.3 percent, while the highest of 7.8 percent was shown in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area.

The inflation rate for pensioners was 10.1 percent—0.6 percent higher than December's official inflation rate. The lowest annual rate of increase was recorded in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area, while the highest of 12.6 percent occurred in Bloemfontein.

Food prices at chain stores showed an annual increase of 5.3 percent and a monthly increase of 1.0 percent, while those at the other retailers showed an annual increase of 4.3 percent and a monthly increase of 1.4 percent.

South African Press Review for 27 Jan

MB2701124094

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Communist Threat Tactics Will Not Get Support for NP—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 25 January in its page 6 editorial comments on the 27 South African Communist Party (SACP) members placed among the top 50 positions of the African National Congress' (ANC) election candidates' list. The National Party (NP) "complains that 'the strategically strong position into which the SACP has manoeuvred itself spells danger to the whole process of establishing a true democracy with a strong and growing economy'. That may be so, but Red gevaar [threat] tactics will not swing Black votes to the NP—and we doubt whether it will swing any other votes to it either. We will have to accept, like it or not, that the Reds who were under our beds in the days of the total onslaught are now on top of the beds."

THE STAR

ANC 'Deserves' Chance To Govern; DP Has Watchdog Role—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 27 January in a page 18 editorial states: "We recognise that the African National Congress has earned its place as the majority party in a government of national unity." "Whether or not one agrees with the tactics the organisation employed over the years, The Star believes the ANC under Nelson Mandela deserves its chance to govern. Thereafter it should be judged according to its performance in government, and be retained or removed by the electorate." The paper believes the "presence in government of small but talented and principled parties such as the Democratic Party [DP], as well as individuals from the National Party, Inkatha Freedom Party, Pan-Africanist Congress and others, is very much in the long-term interests of the country, and the ANC itself." Although the DP is "much too white, too upper-class and too unrepresentative" its presence in the government of national unity "will be invaluable." It will "play a watchdog role, help entrench a workable multiparty system, and defend the core principles to which it and its predecessors have been committed. Bear in mind, too, that proportional representation means every vote

counts: the DP is not going to win the election, but every vote it receives will contribute towards its presence in parliament."

BUSINESS DAY

ANC's 'Totalitarian' Style—"The ANC is not yet the government, but already it shows a totalitarian-style inability to distinguish between its own narrow party interests and the national interest," points out a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 27 January. That is the BUSINESS DAY's explanation for the ANC's "request that it be permitted to purchase a building, presumably with a foreign donation, through the financial rand. It has also asked that duties be waived for the importing of motor vehicles, office equipment and T-shirts, all designed to assist the ANC's election campaign." The request was "cynically" framed in terms of the "'leveling of the political playing field,'" and has gone to the finance subcouncil of the Transitional Executive Council for adjudication "where,

it so happens, the ANC and its allies are well-represented." If the ANC "were as committed to 'transparency' as it claims to be, it would ensure that the subcouncil discussion on its request was open to the public. We hope the episode is not a preview of the open, honest government we can expect after the election."

CAPE TIMES

Government Urged To Avoid Lesotho Crisis—"The South African government is wise to act with circumspection in the Lesotho crisis, and should do everything possible to avoid becoming involved, even if the government of the tiny mountain kingdom has asked that SA troops be sent to quell the fighting between rival army factions in Maseru," advises a page 8 editorial in Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 25 January. "Pretoria, which has done well in mending its fences with Africa since February, 1990, does not wish to be suspected of reverting to a spoiling role in a neighbour-state."

Angola

Government Delegation 'Worried' About Talks

MB2601203294 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Peace talks in Lusaka [words indistinct] specific points of the national police dossier [words indistinct] modalities for the application of general and specific principles. The government delegation is worried because its proposal has so far been in agreement with the thinking of the mediator and the troika of observers.

The numbers proposed by the government for the participation of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] in the national police and the rapid intervention unit are about 15 percent and 18 percent, respectively. UNITA always distant, has on various occasions changed its proposal on percentages to be adopted for its participation in police, but so far, it has not been able to convince the mediator to the point of convening a face-to-face meeting or a plenary session to resolve the issue. The Black Cockerel's negotiators want 35 percent participation in national police and 50 percent participation in the riot police.

President Lauds UN Representative

MB2601151694 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1100 GMT 26 Jan 94

[From the "Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel" program]

[Text] In an exclusive interview he granted ANGOP at Luanda's Futungo de Belas Palace yesterday, President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye has had a very balanced approach to the Angolan peace talks. The Angolan head of state noted that, first and foremost, Blondin Beye has known how to abide by Angolan law, adding that he has tried to have the warring sides reach whatever understandings they possibly can.

Asked whether he thinks today that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] had planned all along to launch a war in the event that it lost the September 1992 elections, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos replied that it is possible that UNITA already had alternate plans, like all the forces—especially the more backward forces—that have assisted him during the conflict.

President Comments on Military, Peace Efforts

MB2601152094 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1100 GMT 26 Jan 94

["Excerpts" of interview with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos by unidentified ANGOP reporters in Luanda on 25 January; on the "Opinion" section of the "Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel" program—recorded.]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, the government team to the Lusaka peace talks regularly gets in touch with you for consultation. Can one talk about progress at the talks?

[Dos Santos] No, I am not just consulted in this process where a negotiated settlement to the conflict is sought. In my capacity as president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Angolan Armed Forces, FAA, I have a rather important interventionist role to play. So I have intervened in the process since its preparation stage. I have intervened in the assessment of strategies and tactics. My intervention has also had to do with the details of negotiation (?in Lusaka), the observers, and so forth. So my intervention is rather extensive. It could not have been otherwise (?if we are to end) the war, which today affects all our lives. I believe there is a solution. It may not happen as quickly as all Angolans of good faith would wish, but UNITA has no other option than to follow the path of reason now or some time from now.

[Reporter] Mr. President: At this stage, one can see that the government is making efforts aimed at creating social stability in government-controlled areas, particularly to help resolve problems linked to the increasing cost of living. Mr. President: How do you think the inflation rate can be brought under control, and how can the country's productive sector be reactivated?

[Dos Santos] Well, the government is studying the difficult economic situation facing our country today. Those studies are intended to help correct the macroeconomic imbalances that emerged principally over the course of the last year. It is my belief that, for as long as there is war, it will be very difficult—perhaps even impossible—to satisfactorily implement any government economic program aimed at a structural readjustment that will correct those macroeconomic imbalances. Basically, the circumstances [words indistinct] Angola's conditions. (?There is a major war on). There is no movement of people or goods. There is no transportation. There is consumption [words indistinct] the armed forces. On the other hand, there has been an increase in public spending and in the General State Budget deficit. There is no...[pauses] perhaps there is, but it will be extremely difficult to raise the fiscal (?revenue and implement) a war tax or some other tax that will help satisfy the needs prompted by war. In view of that, I think that every measure we take will inevitably be a palliative one lacking depth.

Obviously, [words indistinct] discussions by some of our economists [words indistinct] basically, in a symposium, where, I think, the great novelty was the proposal that a tax should be introduced [words indistinct] and so forth. In our opinion, though, we must first make a major effort to create areas of relative political and military stability. Fundamentally [words indistinct] relatively stable area where economic relations can take place. If we manage that, then perhaps we will be able to carry out a program to reduce the macroeconomic imbalances we are experiencing today and to control inflation to a certain extent. The government is making some studies, and I believe

that those studies aim precisely at creating those areas of relative stability by means of a military effort and then by achieving complete peace through a negotiated settlement. Whether it be the one or the other, we would then proceed to implement whatever economic programs we could to correct those macroeconomic imbalances.

[Reporter] Mr. President: Angola has already felt the effects of having joined the IMF. A report has come out saying that the IMF recently reprimanded the Angolan Government. I would like to ask: How have relations been between the Angolan Government and the IMF?

[Dos Santos] There is constant dialogue between the government and the IMF and between the government and the World Bank. There are technical assistance programs under way, notably in the areas of finance, the Central Bank, planning, and so on. Obviously, there have been some differences. We are a sovereign state. We had planned an economic recovery of some three to four years, and those measures (?were) being discussed with the IMF. We also started negotiating with the Paris Club to have our foreign debt rescheduled, but then the situation in Angola changed completely.

Efforts To Reorganize Army Noted, Analyzed

MB2601132194 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 25 Jan 94

[From the "London Last Minute" program]

[Text] Reorganization of the Angolan Armed Forces, FAA, is under way in Angola. Generals who were working in the FAA General Staff have now been called to the Defense Ministry in a bid to strengthen the effectiveness of the military [word indistinct] and put an end to many acts of indiscipline that have been affecting the combat morale of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] government's army. Gustavo Costa reports from Luanda:

[Begin Costa recording] The recent transfer to the Defense Ministry of some generals who were only connected with the FAA General Staff appears to be the first indication that administrative, organizational, and logistical control is being restored over the structure that had until now been decoratively [decorativamente] led by [Defense Minister] Pedro Maria Tonha "Pedale", allowing the most complete freedom and autonomy to General Joao de Matos, FAA chief of General Staff. According to an authorized military source, this is ultimately an attempt to restore power and authority to the Defense Ministry, which will now also include generals who had previously served under the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA. The Defense Ministry could now play a more interventionist role in the definition of the major policies to resolve Angola's political and military problems, as well as to organize the government forces.

Some observers believe that the powers of intervention the Defense Ministry will now enjoy, strengthened by the approval of its new organizational statutes, is the result of

a process of limiting the FAA General Staff's present powers. According to independent military sources, the FAA General Staff's methods have been questioned both by the military and by the very leadership of the ruling MPLA Party. In view of that, it has come as no surprise that influential generals have been moved. They had until then been directly connected with the FAA General Staff's higher logistical structures, today blamed for the ostentatious behavior of some officers. In contrast, the defense sector has always done poorly on the operational front.

UNITA President Jonas Savimbi views the FAA's logistics sector, which consumes enormous slices of the budget and foreign exchange cakes, as one of UNITA's principal allies. The alleged favoring of commercial transactions with enterprises of doubtful standing supposed to supply various merchandise to the FAA forces, could also be at the root of the criticism that FAA General Staff's Logistics Department has often come under. Some of that department's members and officials are accused of covering up what in Angola is called the vicious cycle of planned losses. That cycle appears to have its rotations numbered, though.

According to a senior Defense Ministry officer, uncontrolled spending by the FAA General Staff must now be rigorously accounted for. That source added that, for a start, money mobility has been curtailed and, in future, FAA management will be under the control of the Defense Ministry and will have to abide by its budget restrictions.

Just as a decree could be approved to stem rampant disorder and indiscipline in public enterprises and state organs, so the FAA forces and the forces of internal order could henceforth have to openly or privately acquire merchandise by means of public bids. That will depend on whether the value of the merchandise exceeds 100 or 500 million new kwanzas, which at the current foreign exchange rates corresponds to \$1,000 and 5,000, respectively. [end recording]

UNITA Says President Responsible for Conditions

MB2601181294 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT], yesterday showed clearly that he is the main obstacle in the advancement of the Lusaka talks. Dos Santos even declared that he dictates laws to his negotiators in Lusaka from the time these laws are in the Ministry of State Security laboratories until their implementation at the negotiating table. International mediators are not immune either. In an interview with the ANGOLAN PRESS AGENCY he said:

[Begin dos Santos recording] In my capacity as president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Angolan Armed Forces, FAA, I have a rather important interventionist role to play. So, I have intervened in the process since its preparation stage. I have intervened in the

assessment of strategies and tactics, and my intervention has also had to do with the details of negotiations in Lusaka, the observers, and so forth. So my intervention is rather extensive. [end recording]

Eduardo dos Santos is still advocating a military solution for the Angolan conflict, urging his troops to be ready to fight once more. The MPLA-PT chairman, however, said his government is unable to solve the critical economic problems faced by Angola.

[Begin dos Santos recording] Poverty is a problem. Obviously, the state does not have the necessary conditions to deal with the fundamental problems of food, medical assistance, education, and so on. I believe all adopted measures were palliative. [end recording]

The Luanda government is unable to solve the basic problems of the Angolan people, particularly regarding food aid. It is the Futungo leading class, however, that benefits most from the war—in which it is bent on investing all Angolan funds [word indistinct] because it gets profits from the purchase of weapons.

Questioned about corruption in his government, with three ministers at the top of the list, Eduardo dos Santos did not deny or acknowledge the fact, but he admitted that there is corruption in the party and government he leads without, however, having discussed the issue in the MPLA-PT Central Committee meetings.

[Begin dos Santos recording] We do not deny or confirm this. These issues were not discussed in the Central Committee meeting (?I presided at). I believe there is generalized corruption in the current government and the party that won elections. [end recording]

Eduardo dos Santos neither knows nor ignores the anachronic corruption in the leading class of his organization but knows that it exists. The case has never been mentioned in the meetings of the regime's high hierarchy. Here is the main cause for the prolonged suffering of the Angolan people.

'Violent Clashes' Continue in Bengo Province

MB2601203194 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Violent clashes continue to be waged in Bengo Province, where for several days troops from the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT], led by Eduardo dos Santos, have been on the offensive. According to correspondent Octavio Mulandi, very fierce clashes have taken place over the past 48 hours, with the aggressors suffering heavy losses. Mulandi said more clashes are expected in the coming days, taking into account yesterday's warmongering speech by the Futungo de Belas chief in an interview with the ANGOLAN PRESS AGENCY. Eduardo dos Santos promised to recover strategically important regions in his struggle against the Angolan people.

This morning, the MPLA-PT air force once again bombed agricultural fields and villages at Picapo, the correspondent said. Meanwhile, the UNITA Armed Forces are ready to prove to Eduardo dos Santos that it is foolish to mount offensives when parties are negotiating peace. This was stated by a UNITA captain interviewed on the front line in Bengo today.

President dos Santos Receives Brazilian Envoy

MB2701083594 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos this afternoon received a message from Brazilian President Itamar Franco. Ambassador Jose Parecido de Oliveira went to Futungo de Belas to deliver the message from the Brazilian head of state. The message notes the need and importance of creating the community of Lusophone states and also deals with issues linked to cooperation between Brazil and Angola. Ambassador Jose Parecido Oliveira told the president of the Republic that Angolans should end the absurd war that is ravaging the country and its people.

Lesotho

Leaders Establish Task Force on Lesotho Conflict

MB2601175194 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1610 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Governments of Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have set up a task force to assess the situation of rival factional fighting within the Royal Lesotho Defense Force. The decision was reached during a one-day meeting attended by presidents Sir Ketumile Masire, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, F.W. de Klerk of South Africa, ANC leader Nelson Mandela, and Lesotho's deputy prime minister, Selometsi Boholo, at the president's office today.

Addressing a news conference after the meeting, President Mugabe, who is the chairman of the Frontline States, said the task force will meet in South Africa tomorrow to discuss the modalities of their work. Mr. Mugabe explained that the task force, consisting of representatives of Governments of Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe will work out the possibility of a program of action to be taken by the three countries. He declined to discuss the composition of the task force but stressed that it was to assess the situation in Lesotho, which may mean the task force could visit Lesotho as it will be based in South Africa.

Lesotho's deputy prime minister, Mr. Boholo, briefed the three heads of state and Mr. Mandela about the situation in Lesotho. President Mugabe described the situation in Lesotho as a disturbance that threatened the democratic process in that country. President Mugabe said Lesotho's prime minister, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle, had asked the secretary general of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, to approach the Frontline States to

assist in resolving the crisis. He said Chief Anyaoku approached him as the chairman of the Frontline States about the matter, and he in turn approached President Masire as SADC [Southern African Development Community] chairman, and the two invited the two South African leaders.

Opposition Leader Objects

*MB2701105994 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 26 Jan 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Southern African leaders meeting in Botswana today, including President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and President de Klerk, and Nelson Mandela from South Africa, were talking about the troubles in Lesotho's Army. Clashes between opposing factions have been going on in Maseru for almost two weeks, since one section demanded a big pay increase, but there are those who think it might have been an incipient plot against the government of Ntsu Mokhehle. The leaders decided to set up a task force to look into actions such as sending a detachment of peace-keeping troops to Lesotho, but the Lesotho opposition BNP [Basotho National Party] has been quick to issue a statement objecting. On the line to Maseru, Robin White asked the BNP leader, Evaristus Sekhonyana, what messages they will be sending to Botswana and Zimbabwe.

[Begin recording] [Sekhonyana] We have said very, very clearly: We may not have the power to stop those who want to intervene in the country. We have said it, but we have said that, were they to be tempted with this intervention, they honestly would be doing so against a unified political impression of the entire nation. This is our bidding. We have equally said that there are actions....[pauses] You know, this nation—unfortunately—may be small, but it is a nation of very proud people. They have not exhausted their local remedies, and we have said that, you know, the action of intervening at this stage before the local remedies have been exhausted will be considered by Basotho, the sovereign Lesotho, as a naked interference—and in fact a very strong word we are using—as a rape against our nationhood, a desecration of our constitution and its highest institutions, and a contempt upon his majesty.

[White] But isn't it pretty obvious that local solutions have failed?

[Sekhonyana] No. Only today, the secretary general of the Commonwealth is starting his initiative, and we just don't understand how the secretary general of the Commonwealth can begin his initiative today. The heads of churches, the political leaders, the nongovernmental organizations have all been united today in saying that local remedies have not been exhausted. And only today, the Commonwealth secretary general started this initiative. And somehow, in another capital, a decision has been taken to intervene militarily. We humbly request they rethink.

[White] If they were to come, what would you and your supporters do?

[Sekhonyana] There is nothing. What do you do against a military intervention? But all I am sure is that Basotho will not welcome it. That is one thing I am sure of. It may help the government if the government feels that it is going to be a helpful solution, but it is definitely not to become a welcome mission by Basotho.

[White] Mr. Sekhonyana, in spite of your denials, the feeling persisted in some way these soldiers who are rebelling are supporters of your party.

[Sekhonyana] Well, I really do not know, because, you know, this was concocted by the government and it is utter rubbish.

[White] I know you say it has got nothing to do with you, but what is your message to these rebel soldiers?

[Sekhonyana] The message we are making is that we are pleading with both sides in the Army. We are pleading. We join our comrades in other parties. We join the churches. We join the nongovernmental organizations. Today, the wives of the soldiers made a pleading: For heaven's sake, why do you play into the hands of those who have got bad designs on you? For heaven's sake stop fighting, lay down your arms, go under the structured command. This is the plea. This is the request of us in the entire nation. [end recording]

Foreign Affairs Minister Denies Plans

*MB2701120594 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130
GMT 27 Jan 94*

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, the honorable Molapo Qhobela, has refuted reports broadcast by the foreign media that a task force has been set up in the country to look into, as well to settle, the Army [word indistinct].

Briefing the Royal Lesotho Defense Force members based at (Ha Rakamose) today, Mr. Qhobela said there is no such task force and there will never be. He indicated that it is only the Commonwealth special envoys who are here to help the government in quelling the situation. Mr. Qhobela said the government was not hiding a thing and believes in transparency to avoid conflicts, like the one in Lesotho that has resulted in factions within the Army.

He reiterated that the Army belongs to the nation and no individual church or political leader can own it. Mr. Qhobela briefed the soldiers about meetings held by the envoys with members of the diplomatic corps, the churches and political leaders which he said were very fruitful. The Commonwealth envoys, after their meeting with soldiers at (Ha Rakamose), will then hold a similar meeting with soldiers based at Makoanyane after lunch.

Commonwealth Envoys Comment

MB2601185694 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The Commonwealth special envoys to Lesotho say they are impressed with the commitment projected by Lesotho political and church leaders in assisting the government to find a solution to the present army fracas. The two Commonwealth delegates who arrived in the country to try and assist the government in quelling the situation, Dr. Moses Anafu and Mr. Max Gaylard, told the media that there was unanimous support from the political leaders to help in the ending of the hostilities. However, Mr. Gaylard did not rule out the fact that there was still a danger that further fighting might break out. As to what the Commonwealth would do if the situation worsened, resulting in the toppling of the government by force, Dr. Anafu said the Commonwealth would not hesitate to take harsh measures. They expressed optimism that their discussions with representatives of the two warring army factions would be fruitful and end the crisis.

Protestors March, Request Amnesty

MB2701055294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2103
GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Maseru Jan 26 SAPA—Thousands of protesters marched through Maseru's main street on Thursday [as received] to present a petition to Prime Minister Dr Ntsu Mokhehle on Lesotho's political crisis. The peaceful march was organised by the Lesotho Council of Non-governmental Organisations whose executive director, Caleb Sello, handed the petition to the Office of the Minister.

The petition stated: "That the prime minister should enlist the support of the cabinet, parliament and leaders of various political parties in the country to declare a general amnesty, which would serve as pardon for all sections of the warring factions of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force."

A delegation from the Commonwealth of Nations Secretariat in London is visiting Lesotho on the instruction of Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku to assess events in the Mountain Kingdom. The delegation is led by Maxwell Gaylard of Australia and Moses Anafu of Ghana, both diplomats at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Commonwealth team on Tuesday met Dr Mokhehle and Foreign Minister Molapo Qhobela and on Wednesday members of the diplomatic corps, Basotho church leaders and political leaders.

They are due to meet the officer commanding the Lesotho army and his military assistants on Thursday afternoon.

Russian Envoy Urges End to Conflict

MB2701082694 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500
GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] A statement from the ambassador of the Russian Federation based in the Republic of South Africa to the honorable minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Molapo Qhobela, says, we quote: We have been following closely the news concerning serious aggravation of the situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Armed clashes are taking place there in which military personnel is actively involved. The impression is created that the instigators of the disturbances are trying to exploit dissatisfaction in the Army circles with the number of unresolved socioeconomic problems to overthrow the legitimate government of Lesotho. Expressing serious concern in connection with the development of events in this country, with which we have long-standing friendly relations, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia calls upon the parties to the conflict in Lesotho to put an end to the bloodshed, proceed to a peaceful settlement of their disagreement within the framework of a political dialogue in the interest of the people of Lesotho, peace and stability in the whole region of southern Africa, and its further democratic development. End of quote.

Malawi

British Development Minister Comments on Reform Process

MB2601203094 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 26 Jan 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Britain's minister of overseas development, Baroness Chalker, is off to Malawi tonight after her last visit for some time, and things have changed. Under international pressure, President Banda has allowed multipartyism. Elections are coming up, and Malawi will be looking for moral and material encouragement from Britain. But her visit also coincides with skeletons jangling in President Banda's cupboards. There is a chorus of demands for an independent inquiry into the death of three ministers and an MP 10 years ago. The government insisted it was a car accident. Now, there are allegations of assassination. Ajoa Yeboa Afari asked Baroness Chalker what message she would be taking to Malawi.

[Begin recording] [Chalker] Well, I should be asking questions about their process of change, because I want to be sure that they are following the path of good government, respect for human rights, and the rule of law and that they are continuing with their economic reform program. And we shall actually talk about the elections, which we hope will be free and fair. If those things are going in the right direction, then I should be able to discuss further aid with the Government of Malawi. But such aid will only take place, of course, after the election.

[Afari] Since this is your first visit since 1987, does this indicate a change in the British attitude toward Malawi?

[Chalker] I think that what has happened is that with the referendum in Malawi, we have seen a change for the better by their government. I have wanted to go back to Malawi, but it was not yet given the right signal to go before that change had taken place. I am extremely happy that a change has taken place and that I can now go and have what I know will be fruitful discussions, not only with the president and his ministers, but also with members of the opposition.

[Afar] Talking about the right signals, I believe you are aware that just recently a policeman is alleged to have confessed to having taken part in the murder of some politicians a decade ago, apparently on government instructions. What would you say to people who would see your visit as a kind of boost for the government at this very controversial time?

[Chalker] Well, first of all, I think you will understand, I cannot comment on an internal Malawian matter. There is recent progress on human rights in Malawi, but I shall be urging the Government of Malawi that that progress on human rights and the proper policing of the country should be continued. But I cannot comment on individual matters.

[Afar] Baroness, I appreciate that. But I think since you are also insisting on good governance, perhaps your support otherwise might send some signals to other countries.

[Chalker] Well, I am consistent to the last on this, and I will not allow our aid program to be used where government is not in the best interests of the people.

[Afar] Baroness, would you then lend your support to a call for a campaign in Malawi for an independent inquiry into the atrocities?

[Chalker] I cannot comment on that publicly. I do not have the details. Certainly, the people of Malawi deserve open, honest government, and I should do all I can to encourage the Government of Malawi to make sure they do have open, honest government. [end recording]

Mozambique

President Chissano Leaves for Switzerland 26 Jan
MB2601190894 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano this afternoon left Maputo for Switzerland where he will attend an annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. The meeting will be attended by various personalities directly or indirectly connected with world economic issues. The Mozambican head of state is accompanied by Finance Minister Eneas Comiche. After the meeting President Chissano will make a stopover in Lisbon, Portugal, and then go to Luanda, Angola, to attend a meeting of African leaders on 2 February.

Dhlakama Election Default Threat Termed 'Blackmail'

MB2601132294 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Report on interviews with Jose de Castro, Renamo Foreign Affairs Department chief and head of the Renamo team to the National Elections Commission, and Transport and Communications Minister Armando Guebuza by BBC correspondent Leonel Matias on the "London Last Minute" program—place and date not given]

[Text] In Mozambique, Afonso Dhlakama, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader, has threatened that if the international community does not honor its pledges to finance his organization, he will not participate in the country's first multiparty elections scheduled for October of this year. In an interview published in the first edition of the independent SAVANA newspaper, the Renamo leader did, however, say that Renamo does not intend a return to war. Leonel Matias, our correspondent in Maputo, reports:

In an interview he granted to the BBC, Jose de Castro, Renamo's number-one man for electoral matters, noted that his movement had received promises of financing for its transformation into a political party, as long as it signed the General Peace Accord. Jose de Castro says that the accord was signed, but those countries have not complied with their undertakings yet.

[Begin Castro recording] We find ourselves in a precarious situation that does not allow us to be at peace to face up to the Mozambique Liberation Front, Frelimo. In view of that, we believe such support would be necessary, seeing that it has been promised. If you promise, you owe. [end recording]

I also asked Jose de Castro how much money Renamo thinks the international community should make available. He did not provide figures, but said that Renamo needs a great deal of money.

[Begin Castro recording] At this stage, we have delegates working from their own homes. They do not have [words indistinct] residences. It is important to note that those are key provinces, notably those where we believe some conditions should have been in place but are not. [end recording]

It should be noted that the United Nations has already created a special fund for Renamo. That fund is worth \$6 million. I asked Jose de Castro whether that amount would not be enough:

[Begin Castro recording] We need transportation. We need homes. We need fax machines. We need machines. In other words, we need so many things that we see \$6 million as less than a drop in the ocean. [end recording]

Reports doing the rounds in the Mozambican capital today say that EC countries have decided to support the

special fund that has been created for Renamo. However, no details are available at this stage.

Reacting this afternoon to the statement made by the Renamo leader, Transport and Communications Minister Armando Guebuza, government representative in the Supervision and Control Commission, described Afonso Dhlakama's threats as blackmail.

[Begin recording] [Guebuza] I hope that the Renamo leader will reconsider that demand, because it cannot be used to blackmail our people.

[Matias] Do you see it as blackmail?

[Guebuza] I cannot see any better explanation for it. Our people want money but they know they will only have it once there is stability in the country. [end recording]

Government, Renamo Confine 250 Troops 25 Jan

MB2601191394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] A total of 250 soldiers from the government and the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] arrived at assembly areas yesterday. This was revealed in a daily report of the Technical Unit of the UN Operations in Mozambique. The report says that the government confined 243 troops yesterday, while Renamo confined seven. By yesterday the government had confined a total of 11,219 soldiers, while Renamo had confined 6,976 men.

Renamo Troops in Muhia Seeking Better Conditions

MB2701055694 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Over 1,200 Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] troops, gathered at the United Nations-run assembly point at Muhia, in Mozambique's central province of Zambezia, have demanded that UN special representative in the country Aldo Ajello provide them with better conditions. Ajello visited Muhia yesterday, accompanied by the Mozambican peace negotiator in the peace process with Renamo, Armando Guebuza, Renamo's Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose de Castro, and several Western diplomats.

Renamo fighters at Muhia complained to journalists about their food and housing. They claimed that insufficient food had been sent, and they were fed up with the monotony of a diet consisting essentially of maize and beans. The UN Operation in Mozambique denies that there is any food shortage in any of 35 assembly points currently opened.

The food is supplied by the World Food Program [WFP], and the daily portion of the Mozambican soldier is higher than in any other WFP operation anywhere in the world.

Mr. Ajello has been visiting the assembly points to see with his own eyes the real situation in those accommodation areas.

Namibia

Editorial Views ANC 'Insult' After SWAPO Invitation

MB2601164594 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 20 Jan 94 p 4

[Unsigned editorial]

[Excerpts] The ANC's [African National Congress] behavior following the invitation to the organization's president, Mr. Nelson Mandela, to visit Namibia during SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] solidarity week, was insulting to say the least. President Sam Nujoma and SWAPO were insulted in the worst possible manner, and none of the thousands of explanations by SWAPO's public relations division is acceptable. Only a fanatical minority party support group still concern themselves with excuses from SWAPO headquarters. Namibians are not sorry that Mr. Mandela has dropped his plans to visit Namibian communities during a fund-raising attempt for the ANC's election campaign with SWAPO President Sam Nujoma and SWAPO Secretary General Moses Garoeb. Mr. Mandela unknowingly did Namibians a favor by canceling the visit.

First, his presence would only have secured an audience for Mr. Garoeb in Oranjemund, and, second, under the current economic and social conditions, Namibians can ill afford to make funds available to a party such as the ANC, which already has millions at its disposal. Namibians believe that Mr. Mandela is aware of the fact that inhabitants of this country need the money more than the ANC does, and for this reason he decided not to visit the country.

The motive for the cancellation could also be that Mr. Mandela has heard of SWAPO's three failed national fund-raising efforts and wanted to spare himself and SWAPO the disgrace. SWAPO's car competition in its newspaper, NAMIBIA TODAY, was canceled because of a lack of interest, while the newspaper eventually closed its doors for the same reason. For a while last year, it was propped up artificially with state funds and NEW ERA machinery. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the ANC informed a South African news agency that Mr. Mandela's visit had been canceled, but a SWAPO spokesman Alfeus Naruseb reported that the visit would go ahead. It seems that SWAPO wanted to send a signal to Mr. Mandela that he should not cancel his visit before he has Mr. Naruseb's permission to do so. Mr. Nujoma explained yesterday that he was informed about the cancellation of the visit. According to him, Mr. Mandela telephoned him yesterday morning. But if Mr. Nujoma followed NBC [Namibian Broadcasting Corporation] news, he would have known that the South

African news agency and the NBC knew a day before him that the visit had been canceled. This is a rude response from ANC ranks and an unequaled display of thanklessness. This insult comes after the organization received an amount of 1 million rand from the Namibian Government in the midst of the drought. It is an insult, to say the least. If SWAPO does not see it this way, then the party is more unobservant than expected.

Zimbabwe

Officials, South African Counterparts Meet

*MB2701070194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0153
GMT 27 Jan 93*

[Text] Harare Jan 26 SAPA—Officials from the ministries of Internal Affairs from South Africa and Zimbabwe met in Harare on Monday [24 January] to discuss

a wide range of bilateral issues, including immigration formalities, ZIANA news agency reported on Wednesday.

After the meeting, the Zimbabwe Government said in a statement: "The deliberations were cordial and fruitful and issues included border arrangements at Beit Bridge, cross-border family visits and administrative procedures with regard to immigration formalities."

Both sides agreed to meet regularly in future to discuss matters of mutual concern. The Zimbabwean Government said the meeting was a follow-up to the one held in December between Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira and his South African counterpart Pik Botha at the border town of Messina. This meeting ended with pledges of increased economic cooperation between the two countries.

Benin

Two Groups Deplore Minister's Ban on Union Rally

AB2701113094 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-
Television du Benin Radio in French 1930 GMT
26 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The Beninese Human Rights Commission and the Independent Parliamentary Group have each responded to the interior minister's ban on the union rally at the Cotonou Labor Exchange on 25 January, saying in communique that they deplore the interior minister's violation of demonstration rights.

[Unidentified reporter] In its communique, the Beninese Human Rights Commission refers to Article 25 of the 11 December 1990 Beninese Constitution, which stipulates that the state recognizes [words indistinct] the conditions fixed by the law, the freedom of movement, the freedom of association, the freedom to meet, the freedom to stage marches and demonstrations. The Beninese Human Rights Commission therefore states that in light of that, the interior minister's decision is arbitrary and illegal. It therefore condemns the minister's decision and calls on the government to take necessary measures to ensure that such acts are not repeated in Benin.

The Independent Parliamentary Group also referred to Article 25 of the Beninese Constitution and reminded the public that such actions should not be tolerated in the country. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire

Prime Minister Signs Financial Agreement With IMF

AB2601133594 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television
Network in French 2000 GMT 25 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Meetings and consultations on finances continue at the prime minister's office. The topic on today's agenda was the reduction by half of the value of the CFA franc in the franc zone and its impact on the financial agreements between financial backers and countries that share the use of the CFA franc, which was devalued on 11 January. Our country Cote d'Ivoire, which is very concerned about solving the problems caused by this new economic situation, has been holding discussions led by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, in attempt to ensure the revamping of the Ivorian economy with the support of international financial institutions.

Late this morning, Prime Minister Duncan granted audience to an IMF delegation. The focus of the meeting was to sign the letter of intent concerning the Ivorian economic program endorsed by the IMF for the establishment of an enhanced three-year structural adjustment program worth 281 billion CFA francs. This program will enable the country to reach as early as 1996—

that is within two years—a 6-percent growth rate with, in particular, the active resumption of investments to consolidate and strengthen public finances, and finally, the establishment of measures that will benefit the poorer categories of the society.

[Begin Duncan recording] The particularity of this program compared with previous ones is that it has been launched in the aftermath of the devaluation of the CFA franc which was decided by franc zone member countries. As a classic instrument of economic policy, the modification of the exchange rate has its constraints, the most important of them being the control of prices, the control of monetary creation, and the resorption of public deficit. The change in parity also brings about an improvement in competitiveness and should play a decisive role in the growth of our economy. Simultaneously, external aid will make it possible to finance important economic and social programs. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ex-Premier Avoids Press; Security Guards Withdrawn

AB2601202494 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 26 Jan 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The loser in the power struggle following the death of President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast [Cote d'Ivoire], Alassane Ouattara, has been having rather a hard time of it. He lost out to Henri Konan Bedie. Mr. Ouattara came home at the weekend and since his return the government press has been hounding and denouncing him. Robin White asked our Abidjan correspondent, Ofeibea Quist-Arcton, what the press was saying.

[Begin recording] [Quist-Arcton] Harsh words from the new director general of FRATERNITE MATIN. He asked whether Alassane Ouattara was trying to challenge the authority of the state, having accused him of being a threat to public order, and the sin or the crime of Mr. Ouattara seems to have been the fact that hundreds of his supporters and sympathizers tried to meet and greet him at the airport when he came back on Saturday [22 January] after a three-week absence. But they were prevented from doing so because security forces were deployed in great number on the road to the airport and, actually, at the airport.

[White] What has Ouattara been doing since he got back?

[Quist-Arcton] He has been keeping very quiet. We drove to his house today to try and see him, and we were told that he was willing to take calls from journalists over the phone but wouldn't see us face to face. But whilst we were there we noticed that normally Ouattara has bodyguards, or at least military guards outside his house. All these seem to have disappeared and the person who was at the reception desk at the front seemed to be either a

cook or somebody who worked in the house. He was wearing a very formal sort of white jacket.

[White] Exactly what has happened to his security?

[Quist-Arcton] That is difficult to say. His cousin, Mr. Abdoulaye Cisse, said that at about 1245 today the soldiers were withdrawn. They were given an order to withdraw and they withdrew, and that is all they know about what the authorities have done. But he said that they were setting up their own security and that the people in the locality, Blokosso, where Mr. Ouattara lives in Abidjan, had already sent about 10 young men to guard him and that they were trying to work out a team of about 25 altogether for his personal security. Mr. Ouattara hasn't made any formal comment on the withdrawal of his military security.

[White] But you guess that Konan Bedie would be pretty happy if Ouattara was to leave the country?

[Quist-Arcton] Well, I think people say that he feels that Ouattara is some sort of political competition because although he was brought in a sort of economist who was going to basically try and revive Ivory Coast's economy, he soon became a political animal and I think that the sort of old politicians, those who had waited their time for Houphouet to be out of the limelight, feel a bit bitter that this newcomer, or this upstart, or Burkinabe as they call him—because a lot of his enemies say that he is not Ivorian at all—feel that he has tried to (?muscle) his way into the political scene, and this is wrong. [end recording]

Paper Says State Ready To Deal With 'Rabble Rousing'

AB2601175094 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 26 Jan 94 p 1

["Editorial" by Michel Kouame; passages within slant-lines published in boldface]

[Text] How does one interpret what happened on 22 January in the airport area on the Port-Bouet-Koumassi road, and even at Cocody? A defiance of the authority of the state, or better still a foretaste of the "insurrection" which somebody may be planning to dish out to Ivorians after President Houphouet-Boigny's burial? Many are our countrymen who still wonder and anxiously await the end of the state burial which Cote d'Ivoire and the rest of the world are preparing for the deceased head of state. They wonder whether "February 94" is not going to be a repeat of "February 92," as though it were already predestined that the second month of the year will be for us like the month of May for France—the month of all perils. Remember May 1968 in metropolitan France and May 1958 in Algiers.... among others.

If it was a defiance of state authority, then there is reason to ask a few questions. Who is steering the wheel? Who is behind what happened on 22 January? This question is pertinent because no one can prove that it was in a

spontaneous fashion that these "supporters" of the former prime minister moved to the airport. Consistent reports talk of distribution of money throughout Abidjan and in the communes and the hiring of minibuses, "woro-woro," and "gbaka" [parallel taxi and minibus services, respectively], the idea being to prove, on the one hand, that the former prime minister's popularity has remained intact and, on the other, that the new head of state, whose assumption of office on 7 December 1993 was by virtue of Article 11 of the Constitution, does not in any way enjoy the trust of his countrymen.

The proponents of this thinking, who maintained from the onset that Article 11 was inapplicable and that it "would put the country to fire and sword as soon as Houphouet-Boigny's death is announced," have not yet lost hope of seeing their wish materialize—i.e. setting the country ablaze, turning it definitely into another Liberia, for the simple reason that "power has eluded them," for the time being.... In short, they have lost "the battle," but have not yet "lost the war." Hence, the end justifies the means, not only in defying the authority of the new head of state but particularly in impressing upon all and sundry that without the former prime minister there can be no salvation for Ivorians, now at the mercy of the worst cataclysm.

We all remember the February 1992 attempt which was roundly condemned by all true patriots and men of good judgment from both the Right and the Left, and while the view held then by students and some opposition leaders that the swoop by the military on the Yopougon University hall of residence was "a casus belli," what are we to understand this time? That Cote d'Ivoire is wrong to have had institutions that function? That the Constitution of the Republic ought not to have been applied after President Houphouet-Boigny's death? That a military or civilian coup d'etat would have been far better than a constitutional provision which, even though admittedly imperfect, had the merit of existing?

Whatever the case may be, the strategic and tactical alliance formed between a section of the opposition—which, only recently, held Alassane Ouattara up to public obloquy—and friends of the former prime minister is a curious one. Together, they are committing the fatal error of consciously setting the stage for disorder through acts of provocation and defiance and by misinforming and poisoning the minds of the people. No one stands to gain from a disintegration of the country. No one has ever gained anything by destroying their own country. Savimbi and Charles Taylor can bear witness to that. This is why it is self-evident that just as the return fire to the "final onslaught" was "fatal," Cote d'Ivoire still has the means to deal with "rabble rousing" were it to resurface. The state must stand firm in the interest of the majority of Ivorians, who aspire to nothing but peace.

[Paris AFP in French in an Abidjan date-lined item at 1107 GMT on 26 January adds the following: "These remarks were received with 'surprise and regret' by Ouattara who, in a statement to AFP, maintained he had

"nothing to do" with what happened and had "never done any act to disturb anything whatsoever," and called for serenity. He stated that for the time being he had made no decision regarding his future, political or otherwise. He also played down his differences with Mr. Bedie, saying he had "nothing against him." Mr. Ouattara further recalled that he had made no public statement since President Houphouet-Boigny's death on 7 December which led to his resignation two days later."

Niger

Student Demonstrations Reported in Niamey

AB2601153094 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The National Assembly is in emergency session since 24 January. The devaluation of the CFA franc has already been the subject matter of a communication by Prime Minister Mahamadou Issoufou. Yesterday, the minister of national education reported on the situation in the country's schools and colleges sector. This session is currently in progress, and we have Mohamed Ali on the spot reporting from the National Assembly. It seems the parliamentarians debated among others an item on discriminatory practices in various government departments. Here is Mohamed Ali.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Unlike the calm atmosphere that marked the first two days of the session, business today was particularly turbulent. The calm was broken both inside and outside parliament. Indeed, two incidents which have as common denominator the criticism of policies of the Government of the Third Republic, occurred. First, outside parliament, university and other students arrived in small groups early this morning for a so-called peaceful demonstration to remind the parliamentarians that in spite of the national education minister's reassuring utterances yesterday, their financial problem remains unresolved. They hung on the main gate of the closed parliament house using loudspeakers to spit out insults at the government and the National Assembly, and thereby preventing parliamentarians from resuming business at the scheduled time—that is at 0900. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Now, concerning the university and other students you mentioned, they held a rally at which they protested the arrest of the secretary general of the Niger Students Union [USN] following a violent demonstration on 10 January during which students and security men clashed. This morning's demonstrators later embarked on a march which took them to the office of the prime

minister. Security men had taken position at several road junctions and around the prime minister's office but they did not intervene. Furthermore, the demonstrators issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the government to release the USN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Nigeria

Abacha Term To Be Decided After Constitutional Conference

AB2601212894 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The information minister, Professor Jerry Gana, says the Federal Government will announce how long it will stay in office when the national constitutional conference concludes its assignment. He said though the tenure is expected to be short, it will depend on the outcome of the conference. Reporter Obeijina Ogba has the details.

[Begin Ogba recording] Professor Gana, who led the National Orientation Agency's campaign team to Kano today, said it is only fair that such a timetable be based on decisions of the national constitutional conference. The government, he said, cannot go ahead to organize local governments, governorships, national assembly or presidential elections when Nigerians (have doubts regarding) the political framework of Nigeria. He added that the government will honor the decisions of the conference. [passage omitted including indistinct portion] [end recording]

Senegal

Government, RSA, To Open Representation Bureaus

AB2701114594 Dakar Radio Senegal in French 2200 GMT 24 Jan 94

[Text] Senegal and South Africa [RSA] have agreed to open representation bureaus in Pretoria and Dakar. These bureaus, which will become operational within a few days, will be mainly devoted to commercial, economic, and consular transactions. The Senegalese Government has appointed Amadou Kebe to head the bureau. He was previously first advisor at the Foreign Ministry and is currently director of the Africa-Asia Bureau of that ministry. For its part, the RSA Government has appointed Ms. (Wanda Wald) who will assume the same duties in Dakar. These bureaus will be upgraded to embassy level probably after the South African elections.

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